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The Homeland Security News Briefing

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: MONDAY, JULY 9, 2018 5:00 AM EDT

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Leading DHS News:

PENCE BLASTS DEMOCRATS SEEKING TO "ABOLISH ICE." Vice President Pence spoke at the headquarters of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement on Friday to defend ICE against calls by some Democrats to abolish the agency and praised agents as "patriots" and "heroes." While the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/6, story 8, 0:15, Golodryga, 5.1M) was the sole network newscast to mention the Vice President's speech, reporting was heavy in print and online. Typical of the tone of the coverage was [Fox News](#) (7/6, Shaw, 16.38M), which reports online that Pence's remarks amount to the latest salvo in the White House's "full-scale defense of" the agency "in the face of growing Democratic calls to 'abolish ICE' – a slogan that was once limited to the far-left fringes of the party."

The [Washington Post](#) (7/6, Wagner, 15.68M) similarly reports that the Vice President "admonished Democrats who have called for dismantling Immigration and Customs Enforcement during a visit to the agency's headquarters, where he told employees that he considers them 'patriots' and 'heroes.'" He asserted, "These spurious attacks on ICE by our political leaders must stop." The [New York Times](#) (7/6, Yoon-Hendricks, 19.33M) says the Vice President "specifically called out Senators Elizabeth Warren, Democrat of Massachusetts, and Kirsten Gillibrand, Democrat of New York, as well as Cynthia Nixon, who is seeking New York's Democratic nomination for governor and recently called the agency a 'terrorist organization.'" At what [The Hill](#) (7/6, Lillis, 2.71M) calls his "pep rally for ICE agents," Pence also warned that elimination of the 15-year-old agency "would only empower violent criminals, including members of the MS-13 gang, at the expense of public safety."

According to [USA Today](#) (7/6, Johnson, Gomez, 11.4M), the Vice President additionally "offered unqualified support for the government's front line officers in the Trump administration's immigration enforcement efforts." Pence pledged, "We are with you 100 percent." He continued, "We will always stand proudly with our brave heroes of ICE and the Border Patrol." He added, "Under President Trump, we will never abolish ICE." USA Today reports "Pence's appearance along with Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen comes as the Trump administration has been engulfed in controversy for separating young children from their undocumented parents as part of a 'zero tolerance' border enforcement policy." However, the [AP](#) (7/6, Thomas) acknowledges Pence "made no mention of the Trump administration's 'zero tolerance

policy or the caring for unaccompanied children.”

[CQ Roll Call \(DC\)](#) (7/6, McKinless, 117K) says that by embracing ICE, Pence “continued the White House’s efforts to make [the] controversial border security agency...a major midterm election issue, saying it arrests ‘criminal illegal aliens’ who are ‘poisoning our youth.’” Roll Call adds that “Pence and Trump are eager to make the agency, its border mission and immigration a big midterm campaign issue,” since the Administration is “banking on a hunch voters will side with the GOP’s more aggressive approach to border security and migrant policy than that expressed by many Democratic incumbents and candidates.” [Breitbart](#) (7/6, Moons, 1.28M) reports Pence’s promises drew “applause from the crowd.” Also covering this story are [ABC News](#) (7/6, Barr, 1.85M) and [CQ Roll Call \(DC\)](#) (7/6, Bennett, 117K).

Meanwhile, in a [Washington Post](#) (7/6, Johnson, 15.68M) op-ed, former DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson argues that “abolishing ICE is not a serious policy proposal; it’s about as serious as the claim that Mexico’s ‘gonna pay for the wall.’” Johnson adds that “if Americans don’t like ICE’s current enforcement policies, the public should demand a change in those policies, or a change in the leaders who promulgate those policies.” However, “the outright abolition of ICE would compromise public safety.” Johnson concludes that “calls to abolish ICE only serve to sow even greater division in the American public and in its political leadership, damaging any remaining prospect of bipartisan immigration reform.” [CNN](#) (7/7, Stracqualursi, 82.6M) reported on Johnson’s op-ed.

In an editorial on the “Abolish ICE” movement, the [National Review](#) (7/6, 740K) wrote, “We suspect it is the enforcement of our immigration laws itself that the Left objects to.” The NR added, “Without ICE, the U.S. would have an immigration system with mostly meaningless limits.” Concluding that Democrats don’t want to enter a discussion of reforming ICE, the NR said, “‘Abolish ICE’ is at once an empty rhetorical flourish, a poorly conceived policy, and a sign of how much the Democrats have radicalized on immigration.”

Lucy Steigerwald wrote in [The Week](#) (7/6, 1.99M), “We now have a tangled monster of a system that incentivizes indefinitely holding people who have committed a civil infraction,” and “we are spending a lot of money to punish families for nonviolent offenses.” She added, “I can’t think of anything ICE does that brings added value to the country, but I can point to numerous instances of the agency unnecessarily harassing Americans.” The “massively redundant federal law enforcement” agencies already “spy on us” and share information; they and local law enforcement “can be tasked with tracking down potentially dangerous illegal immigrants.”

Nielsen Lauds ICE Officers. In an online video at the [Washington Post](#) (7/6, 15.68M), Homeland Security Secretary Kristjen Nielsen lauded ICE officers, calling them “vital to our homeland security mission” and saying they have her “undying respect and admiration.” Nielsen also said they “uphold our immigration laws with professionalism, dignity, and compassion.”

Few Specifics On What Abolishing ICE Would Actually Mean. Lissandra Villa, in a blog on [BuzzFeed](#) (7/8, Villa, 4.45M), wrote, “There’s little clarity among Democrats as to what” abolishing ICE “actually means.” A growing number of Democrats, “frustrated with the stories of family separations at the border,” are leaning into “the call even without many specifics on what the proposal would actually entail.” While “largely, Democrats who support the movement say they want to have a discussion now and are comfortable with figuring out the details later,” that “is a far cry from what ‘abolish ICE’ implies at face value.”

The [Huffington Post](#) (7/6, Planas, 4.32M) reported that despite Democratic support for abolishing ICE, they have not reached consensus on “challenging the immigration prosecutions that allowed the White House to split up more than 2,000 families at the border.” In fact, “some Democrats, like Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada, who vocally opposes the Trump administration’s family separation policy, see little problem with criminalizing unauthorized migration.”

Protesters Threaten Sen McConnell, Call For Abolishing ICE. The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (7/7, Costello, 419K) reports Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) was confronted Saturday by a group of protesters yelling “Abolish ICE” and saying “they know where he lives.” McConnell, who was having lunch with Kentucky’s outgoing House Majority Floor Leader Jonathan Shell (R), did not respond to the protesters before getting into a vehicle. Shell later called the demonstration “very distasteful,” and called the protesters “a small group of extremists.”

ICE’s History Profiled. [PBS NewsHour](#) (7/6, Loffman, 759K) reviewed the history of ICE and its role under President Trump. “The current Immigration and Customs Enforcement was one of three agencies established in 2003 from what used to be the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).” Under Trump, the agency had “a wholesale shift in...priorities” to focus on removing legal permanent residents.

In a profile of the agency, [Quartz](#) (7/7, Timmons, 788K) reported, “We could not find any documentation that fully explains the rationale and purpose behind ICE’s composition.” The current “focus on immigration violations is a clear sign of drift

from ICE's original mission" focus on transnational crime, and has become "a nationwide manhunt that has ensnared people who have been in the country peacefully for years or decades."

DHS News:

DEMOCRATS BALK AT ADMINISTRATION PUSH FOR ICE FUNDING INCREASE. [The Hill](#) (7/8, Lillis, Bernal, 2.71M) reports that the Administration is seeking \$8.3 billion in discretionary funding for ICE in Fiscal 2019, which would be a \$967 million increase over this year's budget, and Democrats "are already balking at the figure out of early concern that Republicans will designate the money for bolstering enforcement efforts, including an acceleration of deportations." The Democrats' concerns are "significant because the Republicans will need support from the other side of the aisle to approve any new spending bills, as the GOP remains divided over fiscal issues."

BRYAN TO BE NOMINATED TO HEAD DHS S&T. [ExecutiveGov](#) (7/6, Martin) reports that President Trump "plans to nominate William Bryan, acting undersecretary for science and technology at the Department of Homeland Security since May 2017, to lead the S&T directorate on a full-time basis." [MeriTalk](#) (7/6) reports Bryan "has been acting in that role since May 2017, with the official title of 'senior official performing the duties' of Under Secretary for S&T. He was president of ValueBridge International's Energy Group, and before that was a deputy assistant Secretary for infrastructure security and energy restoration at the Department of Energy, and director for critical infrastructure protection in the Defense Department's Office of Under Secretary of Defense for Policy."

[Federal Computer Week](#) (7/6, Rockwell, 263K) reports that S&T "researches, develops and tests new ideas and technologies for the agency's operational components, including scanning systems to inspect people and material for weapons and contraband at airports and seaports. S&T also supports the development of technology for first responders."

Border Wall:

DENHAM WARNS THAT FAILURE OF IMMIGRATION REFORM COULD ENDANGER GOP SUPPORT FOR WALL FUNDING. Rep. Jeff Denham told [McClatchy](#) (7/6, Irby, 81K) in an interview that if Congress cannot reach agreement on immigration reform, including "a permanent fix for Dreamers," moderate Republican lawmakers like him may not support President Trump's demand for \$25 billion toward border security and wall construction. According to McClatchy, "if every House Democrat voted against the budget, 22 Republicans would have to join them to defeat it. There were 25 Republicans who supported an effort to force a vote on a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, but many of those members are unwilling to say whether they would risk another politically unpopular government shutdown by denying wall funding – two months before the mid-term elections."

Tennessee Republican Builds Wall In New TV Ad. "Plenty of Republican congressional candidates have pledged to back President Trump's efforts to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border," the [Washington Post](#) (7/6, Wagner, 15.68M) reports, "but Jason Emert, a candidate in Tennessee, goes further in a new television ad: It shows him literally building a wall in what appears to be his yard." According to the Post, "in the 30-second spot, Emert, who bills himself as a 'Pro-Trump, Pro-Wall, and Conservative Republican' and is competing in next month's GOP primary in the 2nd Congressional District, is seen working on the wall when he is interrupted by his wife," who asks if he is "really going to help President Trump build the wall?"

FEDS SEEK TO SURVEY BORDER PROPERTY OWNERS' LAND FOR WALL CONSTRUCTION. The [AP](#) (7/8) reports that property owners along the US-Mexico border in Texas have received notices from the federal government "asking to review their land, which could be used for border wall construction." According to KENS-TV, residents of Escobares "received letters from the Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Customs and Border Protection a few weeks ago to get their consent to survey their land." Rep. Henry Cuellar, "who represents the area, said federal officials told him there have been over 200 of these requests made in Starr and Hidalgo counties."

Border Security:

ICE SEIZED \$43 MILLION WORTH OF COUNTERFEIT ITEMS IN LAREDO, TEXAS. [Fox News](#) (7/6, Richardson, 16.38M) reports Immigration and Customs Enforcement seized "more than 181,000 counterfeit items worth some \$43 million" last month in Laredo, Texas. This was "the biggest counterfeit seizure for ICE's Homeland Security Investigation (HSI) in the area." Acting Deputy Special Agent in Charge Jesus Adrian Flores, HSI Laredo, said in a statement, "HSI special agents are committed to collaborating with industry representatives and law enforcement agencies to crackdown on counterfeiting that significantly hurts local economies and funnels money into criminal organizations involved in additional illicit activities."

CUSTOMS SEIZES COUNTERFEIT MERMAID DOLLS. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (7/7, Olson, 1.16M) reported US Customs and Border Protection agents “seized more than 60,000 counterfeit mermaid dolls,” worth an estimated \$601,198 retail. International Falls port director Anthony Jackson said, “Counterfeiting adversely affects the ability of lawful copyright holders to profit from their original ideas. Counterfeiting also harms consumers because manufacturers of forged products have little motivation to use safe, high-quality materials.”

Aviation Security:

TSA ATTEMPTING TO HIRE NEW AGENTS AMID STRONG ECONOMY. [CNBC](#) (7/6, Rogers, 4.81M) reports that as the “summer travel season kicks into high gear,” the TSA “is looking to add thousands of workers to its ranks.” However, “like most employers, the TSA isn’t immune to a strong economy. When demand is at a peak, finding the right talent can be a challenge even with a diverse applicant pool.” Keith Malley, TSA director for recruitment and field operations, said, “With the uptick in the U.S. economy and increases in wages and compensation packages, like most employers we have steeper competition. We work hard to sell the benefits of federal employment to try to attract folks to help with America’s travel public.”

Immigration Policy:

JUDGE DENIES GOVERNMENT REQUEST FOR MORE TIME TO REUNITE ADULTS AND CHILDREN SEPARATED AT THE BORDER. The [AP](#) (7/6, Spagat) reported US District Judge Dana Sabraw “insisted on Friday the Trump administration stick to a deadline to reunite children separated from their parents at the border...acknowledging that more time may be justified only in specific cases.” The judge said the government “must comply with the time frame unless there is an articulable reason.” The government had “said it needed more time to reunite 101 children under 5 years old to ensure the children’s safety and to confirm their parental relationships.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/7, Davis, 4.03M) reported, “Sabraw was reluctant to extend the deadlines, instead urging the government to streamline processes where appropriate, ‘but of course never losing sight of the safety of the children,’ he said.”

[Reuters](#) (7/6, Graham) reported that Sabraw also ordered the government to “provide a list by Saturday evening of the estimated 100 children under the age of 5 who were separated from their parents when entering the United States,” and he additionally “ordered the government to explain by Saturday its expectation for reuniting each of those children with their parents by the end of Tuesday.” Reuters states that Sabraw “also asked the government to provide the American Civil Liberties Union, which brought the class action case, with expectations for meeting the deadline for each of the children on the list.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/7, story 9, 2:20, Diaz-Balart, 3.8M) reported the government is “scrambling” to create a list of illegal immigrant children separated from their parents, “ahead of a court order with a deadline of tonight.” Following a ruling in California, the government is required to provide the list by tonight and “reunite all children under age five no later than Tuesday.” However, Health and Human Services officials have asked for more time to “process DNA tests used to match children and parents.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/6, Hurtado, Maki, 4.46M) reported that Administration officials “said that while they believe they’re in compliance with ‘all aspects’ of the order, they want the deadlines modified because government agencies – including the Department of Health and Human Services – are following ‘time-consuming’ procedures like weekslong evaluations of homes where the children would be placed.” According to Bloomberg, “The government filing appears to contradict a statement by Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, who said Thursday the U.S. would return immigrant children under five by July 10 to comply with the court order.” In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (7/6, A1, Sacchetti, 15.68M) also said the request “marks an abrupt departure from [Azar’s] comments.” According to the Post, Azar “said Thursday morning that an army of government workers had been dispatched to review files and conduct DNA testing to match parents with their children.” [Reuters](#) (7/7, Beasley) reported the government “expanded its use of DNA tests to establish paternity in immigration matters,” saying it “is a faster means of confirming parentage than relying on assembling documents such as birth certificates.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/6, Gurman, Campo-Flores, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) provided similar coverage.

[ABC World News Tonight](#)’s (7/6, story 4, 2:10, Llamas, 7.12M) Kyra Phillips reported the DOJ also said 19 of the children’s parents have already been deported while the parents of 19 others “were released from custody, whereabouts unknown.”

Meanwhile, [The Hill](#) (7/6, Folley, 2.71M) cites [NBC News](#) in reporting that DOJ lawyers “said Friday that officials are unable to locate the parents of 38 migrant children separated under the administration’s controversial ‘zero tolerance’ border policy.” The Hill adds “among those that the administration said it cannot track, government lawyers said the parents of 19 children have been released from custody in the U.S. but their whereabouts are unknown, while the parents of another 19 children have been deported.” The [Daily Beast](#) (7/6, 1.69M) also covered this issue.

Meanwhile, the [Washington Times](#) (7/6, Dinan, 460K) reported a top official at ICE in a filing said “every illegal immigrant parent whose child was separated at the border has now been able to at least speak by telephone.” The filing also revealed that “some parents have already been moved to new detention facilities to put them closer to where their children are being held, preparing for final unification and, in many cases, release from custody.” According to the Times, the announcement “signals that catch-and-release – the policy the Trump administration had been trying to stop – remains in effect as the government scrambles to deal with the aftermath of family separations.”

[Politico](#) (7/6, Hesson, Gerstein, 3.51M), [CNN](#) (7/6, Shoichet, 82.6M), and [USA Today](#) (7/6, Gomez, 11.4M) also cover this story. The [CBS Evening News](#) (7/6, story 7, 0:25, Golodryga, 5.1M) and [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/6, story 2, 0:50, Snow, 6.68M) provided similar coverage in brief broadcasts.

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/7, 15.68M) criticizes the Department of Health and Human Services for its “bungling in the handling of separated families” of illegal immigrants. The agency’s mismanagement has resulted in “Third World-style government dysfunction that combines the original sin of an unspeakably cruel policy with the follow-on ineptitude of uncoordinated agencies unable to foresee the predictable consequences of their decisions.” The Post adds that HHS Secretary Alex Azar does not appear concerned about the separated “children’s welfare, nor the lasting psychological harm they would suffer, when the government callously tore them away from their parents.”

In an editorial, the [Houston Chronicle](#) (7/7, 2.14M) wrote that the effort to reunite children with their families “is far from over. And the administration’s efforts to rectify the situation should leave no conscientious American feeling satisfied.” The Chronicle warned, “[T]he conditions that inspired so many to take to the streets last weekend remain the status quo for too many parents and children.” The Chronicle concluded, “[U]nless Americans continue to protest and resist, the president’s other mission – to stem the flow of immigrants, all immigrants, the lifeblood of this nation – will keep pressing ahead at full steam.”

Harvard Kennedy School Professor Juliette Kayyem, in an op-ed on [CNN](#) (7/7, Kayyem, 82.6M), wrote, “There is no reason that the reunification of children who were separated by US authorities from their parents should be so chaotic.” She added, “There are no excuses,” as “it simply defies logic that our own government would separate children from their families with no serious effort at an accounting and tracking system to be able to reunite them at some stage.”

ACLU: Administration Will Miss Deadline. The [AP](#) (7/8, Spagat) reports, “The ACLU said late Sunday the administration provided it with a list of 102 children under 5 years old and that ‘appears likely that less than half will be reunited’ by Tuesday’s deadline.” The Justice Department said “that the administration ‘worked tirelessly’ since Friday ‘toward the shared goal of promptly reunifying families while ensuring the safety of the children.’” [The Hill](#) (7/8, Anapol, 2.71M) also covers this story.

Homeland Security Officials Resume Catch-And-Release Policy Under Pressure From Judge’s Ruling. The [Washington Times](#) (7/8, Dinan, 460K) reports that the Department of Homeland Security is “preparing to release dozens of immigrant parents from custody this week in order to reunite them with their young children, blaming a judge’s deadline for forcing them to reimpose the catch-and-release policy the Trump administration was trying to end.” Robert Guadian, a top ICE official, said in a sworn declaration to Judge Sabraw, “In many cases, ICE will release the parent on Alternatives to Detention (ATD) to enable reunification to be completed.”

HHS Reveals 3,000 Migrant Children Remain In Custody. On [ABC’s Good Morning America](#) (7/6, 3.91M), Amy Robach reported that in a “startling revelation, we are now learning that there may be even more families who were separated [at the border] than we previously thought.” Gio Benitez reported the Department of Health and Human Services is “now saying there are even more children separated than first reported – 3,000 children remaining in the government’s care. That number is considerably higher than the roughly 2,000 previously reported by HHS.” Benitez added that HHS Secretary Azar “reveal[ed] the new numbers [on Thursday] during a call with reporters describing this situation as ‘unprecedented’ and promising the resulting reunification will be as ‘compassionate a process as it possibly can be.’”

Rep. Grijalva Tours Shelter. The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (7/7, Trevizo, 296K) reported Rep. Raúl Grijalva toured the Casa Estrella del Norte shelter in Tucson, which houses “nearly 80 immigrant children separated from their parents at the border.” Grijalva said, “It’s clean, but it’s still a place where kids can’t leave.” The [Arizona Republic](#) (7/6, White, 1.21M) reported, “Grijalva said he did not get answers on how the reunification process works.” Grijalva said that as he waited more than a month on approval for the tour, “I’m assuming I’m seeing the best of” the facility. He added, “It raises more questions and the believability factor goes down.”

Meanwhile, [McClatchy](#) (7/6, Daugherty, Glueck, 81K) reported HHS is “hitting back at members of Congress and their staffs who are trying to see inside facilities that house children who have been separated from their parents while crossing

the border illegally.” According to McClatchy, Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL) was “barred from visiting the Homestead Temporary Shelter for Unaccompanied Children on Friday even though he tried to set up a visit weeks ago and followed protocols issued by the Trump administration.” Asked why Curbelo was turned away, an HHS spokeswoman in a statement said, “More than 50 members of Congress and 60 congressional staffers visited in the month of June alone.” The spokeswoman added that the “visit requests and accommodations [are] creating significant and unnecessary strain on grantee shelters’ staff, whose first and foremost priority is providing for the safety, security, and care of youth at their facilities.”

Lawsuits: Children Traumatized By Separation From Parents. The [AP](#) (7/6) reports lawsuits by lawyers from a legal services clinic at Yale Law School and Connecticut Legal Services say that “two children separated from their families at the U.S.-Mexico border and detained in Connecticut have been traumatized by the ordeal.”

Group Seeks To Help Immigrant Mothers Reunite With Separated Children. The [Arizona Republic](#) (7/6, Larson, 1.21M) reports, “Volunteers are working to unite parents and kids separated from ‘zero tolerance’ policy, though they believe it is the government’s responsibility to do so.” The new group Immigrant Families Together seeks to transport immigrant mothers to their children “until no more families remain separated by the Trump administration’s zero-tolerance policy.”

Six-Year-Old In Border Facility Audiotape Still Separated From Her Mother. Ginger Thompson on [ProPublica](#) (7/6, Thompson, 49K) wrote that even with the policy changes after “ProPublica released a recording that was secretly made inside a Border Patrol detention facility and captured Jimena’s distraught cries for help after agents separated her from her mother,” Cindy Madrid Henriquez, “there’s been no relief for those like Madrid and her daughter. On the contrary, her case shows that the retreat from zero tolerance could be as messy and painful as the launch, as she and other immigrant families seek to be reunited with their children, while pursuing separate claims for asylum.” Thompson details the “arbitrary rules and resistance” that impeded her efforts to chronicle the two’s experiences.

WPOST A1: POLL FINDS MAJORITY OPPOSED TO SOME PARTS OF TRUMP IMMIGRATION PLANS, BUT DIVIDED ON OTHERS. A front-page [Washington Post](#) (7/5, A1, Balz, Clement, 15.68M) article reports a new poll conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago for the Post and the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University of 1,473 “adults” (6/27-7/2) shows “Americans overwhelmingly oppose the Trump administration’s now-rescinded policy of separating immigrant children from their parents, and smaller majorities also disagree with the president’s call to build a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border and to restrict legal immigration by limiting citizens from bringing parents and siblings to this country,” but “Americans are more closely divided on the question of whether enough is being done to prevent illegal immigration and whether the country has gone too far in welcoming immigrants.” The Post adds “more people say they trust President Trump than congressional Democrats to deal with the issue of border security,” particularly “in congressional districts considered key battlegrounds in this fall’s midterm elections.”

NYTIMES A1: SHELTERS ARE BECOMING MAKESHIFT SCHOOLS FOR DETAINED IMMIGRANT CHILDREN. A front-page [New York Times](#) (7/6, A1, Goldstein, Fernandez, 19.33M) article reports on the challenges of “educating the thousands of [immigrant] children now housed in youth shelters and family detention centers across the country.” The Times explains that federal law “requires that all children on American soil receive a free public education, regardless of their immigration status,” so as the Trump Administration expands the number of people detained at the border, “shelters and detention facilities are ramping up their roles as makeshift schools, teaching English and civics classes, offering cooking lessons and setting up field trips to art museums.” The article points out that “according to Health and Human Services guidelines, all residents of the children’s shelters ... should receive an educational assessment within 72 hours of arriving, and have access to schooling that takes into account their ‘linguistic ability’ as well as ‘cultural diversity and sensitivity.’”

SOME IMMIGRANTS CLAIM THEY HAVE BEEN ABRUPTLY DISCHARGED FROM US MILITARY. The [AP](#) (7/6, Mendoza, Burke) reports that “some immigrant U.S. Army reservists and recruits who enlisted in the military with a promised path to citizenship are being abruptly discharged.” The AP says it has been “unable to quantify how many men and women who enlisted through the special recruitment program have been booted from the Army, but immigration attorneys say they know of more than 40 who have been discharged or whose status has become questionable.” According to the AP, some of those discharged “said the Army informed them they’d been labeled as security risks because they have relatives abroad or because the Defense Department had not completed background checks on them.”

The [New York Times](#) (7/6, Philipps, 19.33M) reports that a “growing number of foreign-born recruits who joined the United States military through a special program created to recruit immigrant troops with valuable language and medical skills are being terminated before they can qualify for citizenship.” Lawyers for the recruits “say at least 30 have been discharged in recent weeks and thousands more are stuck in limbo – currently enlisted but unable to serve – and may also be forced

out.”

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/6, story 9, 2:35, Golodryga, 5.1M), Jericka Duncan interviewed a Pakistani immigrant who in 2016 “enlisted in the US Army with hopes of becoming a legal US citizen through a program known as MAVNI, which stands for Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest,” but said he was recently discharged. Duncan added the recruit “forwarded CBS News part of what he said was from his military record. It states he ‘has such a deep and longstanding loyalty to the US.’”

However, the [Daily Caller](#) (7/6, Chandak, 420K) reports that NPR reporter Tim Mak on Friday “took apart the Associated Press’s coverage of discharged immigrant military recruits.” According to the Daily Caller, Mak “criticized the AP for only providing ‘hints and anecdotes’ instead of evidence that the Trump administration made such changes.” The Daily Caller adds, “While the AP framed immigrants as being unfairly and abruptly targeted by the military, Mak said discharges happen frequently for a variety of reasons,” writing: “Perhaps these immigrant recruits could not pass a background check.”

Jeff Schogol and Adam Linehan write for [Task & Purpose](#) (7/6, Schogol, 77K) that while “the AP did report accurately that many recruits have been cut from the program in recent months, the Pentagon insists that the numbers reflect nothing unusual.” Two army recruiters “who spoke to Task & Purpose on the condition of anonymity rejected the notion that the military was deliberately and purposefully ridding itself of non-U.S. citizens – as did a Nigerian immigrant who has been enrolled the MAVNI program for more than two years. ‘I think the journalist just didn’t understand how MAVNI works,’ she opined.”

Jimmy Quinn, in a piece for the [National Review](#) (7/6, Quinn, 740K), says that the problems with the MAVNI program reported by the AP have “nothing to do with the administration’s hostility to immigration; it is above all the story of a bureaucratic battle. That it’s been twisted into something else is a reminder, if ever one were needed, that facts can quickly become the casualty of political expediency in the age of social-media outrage.”

The [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (7/7, Morton, 587K) reports Rep. Don Bacon “said Friday that the program involved was supposed to be a narrowly targeted way for the military to acquire specialized talents from foreign nationals. But, Bacon said, the Army ramped up the program well beyond what was intended, failed to do adequate background checks on the recruits from the start and is now having to go back through to weed out potential bad actors.”

In an editorial, the [New York Post](#) (7/6, 4.46M) argues that the AP story is overblown, and that the problems with MAVNI pre-date President Trump.

Meanwhile, the [New York Times](#) (7/6, 19.33M) has an item in its online magazine section that says, “If you have been unexpectedly discharged from the military because of your immigration status, we want to hear from you for a coming story.”

WTIMES ANALYSIS: ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY HAVING LITTLE IMPACT ON BORDER CROSSINGS. The [Washington Times](#) (7/8, Dinan, 460K) reports in an analysis that the latest numbers show that “migrant families continued to pour across the U.S.-Mexico border in June,” in an indication that “the government’s threat to jail parents and separate them from their children didn’t stop them from making the attempt.” According to the data released Thursday, “the number of families trying to sneak into the U.S. between the ports of entry remained virtually unchanged over the past three months.” While DHS press secretary Tyler Houlton said, “Following the implementation of the administration’s zero-tolerance policy, the June 2018 Southwest Border Migration numbers declined by 18 percent when compared to the previous month,” analysts “said there is little evidence that zero tolerance is working.” In the Times’ words, analysts said that “[w]ith few exceptions...the number usually drops in June as summer heat deters migrants.”

Blogger: DHS Figures Show There Isn’t An Illegal Immigration Crisis. Contributor Stuart Anderson, in a blog on [Forbes](#) (7/6, Anderson, 10.34M), wrote, “There is no illegal immigration crisis at the border justifying extreme actions, according to the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) own data.” Citing Customs and Border Protection statistics, Anderson added, “The numbers show there is no illegal immigration crisis at the border.” He concludes, “The federal government should provide alternatives to detention for those seeking asylum and adjudicate their applications fairly.”

MAR-A-LAGO APPLIES TO HIRE 61 FOREIGN WORKERS. The [Washington Post](#) (7/5, Fahrenthold, 15.68M) cites [BuzzFeed](#) in reporting separate postings on the Labor Department’s website on Thursday show President Trump’s Mar-a-Lago Club “has applied for permission to hire 61 foreign workers to serve as waiters and cooks during the winter social season in Palm Beach, Fla.” The Post says the applications “show that – despite Trump’s insistence that immigration is holding down wages and crowding out native-born American workers – his club believes it cannot find any Americans in South Florida who are qualified to hold two very common restaurant-industry jobs.”

FORMER PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR URGES ADMINISTRATION NOT TO TERMINATE TPS. In a [Washington Post](#) (7/6, Schneider, 15.68M) op-ed, Mark Schneider, a senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, former director of the US Peace Corps, and former head of Latin America and the Caribbean at USAID, cautions that “if you think the last few weeks of separating 2,300 children from their migrant parents along the southern border were heart-wrenching, imagine if 273,000 American-born children are separated from parents whose temporary protected status (TPS) is terminated. That is what could happen if the Trump administration’s decision to revoke TPS for Haitians, Salvadorans and Hondurans is allowed to take effect.” Schneider argues the decision to terminate TPS “appears blatantly political since it contradicted the evaluation of U.S. diplomats in each of the countries who sent cables urging extension of TPS.” He concludes by calling on President Trump “to reverse the DHS termination decisions” and urging Congress “to authorize permanent residency for their parents now and a pathway to citizenship.”

US IMMIGRATION POLICY PREVENTED ANNE FRANK’S FAMILY FROM ESCAPING NAZIS, ANALYSIS FINDS. The [New York Times](#) (7/6, Zaveri, 19.33M) reports new research from the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington found “attempts by Anne Frank’s father to escape the Nazis in Europe and travel to the United States were complicated by tight American restrictions on immigration at the time, one of a series of roadblocks that narrowed the Frank family’s options and thrust them into hiding.” The Times adds that the research “details the challenges faced by the Frank family and thousands of others looking to escape Europe as Nazi Germany gained strength and anti-refugee sentiment swept the United States.”

ACTIVISTS UNSURE OF STAYING POWER OF WAVE OF CALLS FOR IMMIGRANTS’ RIGHTS. The [Washington Post](#) (7/6, Lang, 15.68M) reports, “Non-Hispanic allies who for years have opted out of immigrant protests, rallies and slogans have started to show up en masse.” However, immigrant rights advocates “are uncertain of the widening movement’s staying power,” with some concerned “that the wave of support is tied more closely to progressives’ dislike of Trump’s agenda than to any newfound embrace of immigration issues and may be temporary.”

IMMIGRATION REFORM URGED. US Director of Church Mobilization for World Relief Matthew Soerens, in an op-ed in [The Hill](#) (7/6, Soerens, 2.71M), calls for reforming immigration laws, as “full enforcement of all immigration laws, including the deportation of roughly 11 million undocumented immigrants, would be catastrophic.” Not fully enforcing them “serves our national economic interests and the common good more than fully enforcing the law,” but “it’d be much better to carve out more specific laws that could be fully enforced.” This would require “us to make it easier to immigrate legally and harder to immigrate illegally.” Soerens concludes, “If the attorney general and other national leaders would consider the whole counsel of Scripture, they’ll find we can both be compassionate and honor the law, leveraging the economic benefits of migration both for American citizens and immigrants.”

PROPOSED BALLOT MEASURE SEEKS TO REPEAL OREGON’S SANCTUARY STATE STATUS. [Newsweek](#) (7/6, Kogan, 2.18M) reports, “A petition calling for a ballot measure that would seek to repeal Oregon’s status as a sanctuary state has 105,000 signatures and was submitted on Thursday to Oregon’s Secretary of State.” If at least 88,814 signatures are verified, the measure will appear on the ballot.

SOME SEE TRUMP IMMIGRATION POLICIES AS THREATENING BORDER CULTURE. [NBC News](#) (7/7, 5.76M) reports, “The seam between Texas and Mexico has created a fabric of American life filled with a citizenry” whose “lives, family and work extend across the international line.” President Trump’s immigration policies “have some feeling that the symbiotic life they’ve lived here is threatened.” While the Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement are “part of the community and part of the local economy,” some feel immigration authorities’ presence “has become more aggressive.”

POLICY CHANGES INCREASED DIFFICULTY OF CHILDREN GAINING REFUGEE STATUS OR ASYLUM. [Salon](#) (7/6, 53K) reported that prior to the policy of separating immigrant children from their parents, the Trump Administration “quietly” made changes “short-circuiting opportunities for children to get help and prove whether they are entitled to refugee status or asylum” and giving “more power for final decisions about child deportation to officials at the border.” By collecting and sharing more information about adult sponsors and other adults in the household of children awaiting decisions, the government “can discourage relatives or family friends already in the U.S. from coming forward to help the child.” Immigration judges are allowed “to revoke the designation of ‘unaccompanied’ to exclude children from that category once they are placed in the custody of a responsible adult.” It is also easier now “for a federal immigration judge to discount the validity of children’s testimony about the dangers they face.” Also, the government didn’t “renew a federal program that provided legal help to unaccompanied children.”

Immigration Enforcement:

POLICE ARREST ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT SUSPECTED OF INVOLVEMENT IN OHIO TEEN RAPE IN TEXAS. The

[Daily Caller](#) (7/6, Racke, 420K) reports deputy US marshals and police officers in Lubbock, Texas on Thursday arrested David Ramos Contreras, a 28-year-old illegal immigrant suspected of kidnapping and raping 13- and 14- year-old sisters last month in Ohio, but “two of the suspects, Juan Garcia Rios Adiel and Arnulfo Ramos, remain on the loose, and a fourth, Simon Juan, is in custody in Ohio.” The Daily Caller says “Contreras is a Mexican national who was deported from the U.S. in October 2017, according to police.”

DRIVER IN FATAL CAR ACCIDENT FACES DEPORTATION. The [Washington Post](#) (7/6, Morse, 15.68M) reported Roberto Garza Palacios, “the driver of a Honda Accord that fatally struck an FBI agent and a fire investigator on the side of a Maryland highway has paid a \$280 fine, concluding a case of negligent driving lodged against him.” Prosecutors had concluded that “his actions did not rise to a ‘gross deviation’ from careful driving or a ‘reckless disregard’ for human life – the conditions needed to support more-serious charges.” Palacios faces possible deportation; “on May 3, officers from Immigration and Customs Enforcement took him into custody at his home in Gaithersburg and charged him with overstaying and violating the terms of a work visa that had expired in 2009, according to ICE officials.” Three years previously, ICE asked Montgomery County “jail officials to place a hold on him, but that request was not honored and Garza Palacios was released, according to county and federal officials.”

USCIS TO ISSUE NOTICES TO APPEAR FOR BROADER RANGE OF CASES. The [Miami Herald](#) (7/7, Roth, 1.07M) reported, “Measures announced Thursday by the Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will tighten the Department of Homeland Security’s controls on immigrants.” Officials will issue Notices to Appear “for a broader range of cases such as fraud, criminal activity or when an applicant is denied an immigration benefit.” Agency Director L. Francis Cissna said in a statement, “For too long, USCIS officers uncovering instances of fraudulent or criminal activity have been limited in their ability to help ensure U.S. immigration laws are faithfully executed.” He said the new procedures give USCIS officers more leeway and “clear guidance they need and deserve to support the enforcement priorities established by the president, keep our communities safe, and protect the integrity of our immigration system from those seeking to exploit it.”

TWO ARRESTED IN ALABAMA SET FOR DEPORTATION. The [Dothan \(AL\) Eagle](#) (7/6, 75K) reports “the United States is seeking the deportation of Crecencio Gerardo Ortiz-Lopez and Alfonso Jimenes-Morales,” who were arrested for driving under the influence.

ARTIST DEPORTED EVEN AS HIS WORK IS DISPLAYED AT COLUMBIA MUSEUM. The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (7/8, Alani, 292K) reports Felix Baizabal, who “was chosen to participate in an exhibit focused on Latino artists and immigrants at the Columbia Museum of Art,” was deported to Morelos, Mexico, where he hadn’t been since he was a teen.

CALIFORNIA TO HOLD MASS IMMIGRATION HEARINGS. The [AP](#) (7/8, Spagat) reports the Southern District of California will hold “holding large, group hearings” for immigration cases “that critics call assembly-line justice.” The AP adds, “When prosecutors in California began trying more cases in May, Chief District Judge Barry Moskowitz formed a committee of attorneys and government agencies to minimize the impact, writing that the increased load would cause ‘strains, issues and problems.’” Issues include X-raying people for safety, a lack of jail space, and court often running “beyond business hours, once lasting until 10 p.m.”

MOTHER OF NINE DEPORTED WITH SIX CHILDREN, LEAVING THREE IN US. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (7/6, Plevin, 140K) reported a mother with nine children was deported to Tijuana with six of them, “five of whom were United States citizens.” Her 19-year-old daughter was left “to care for her 14-year-old brother, who is also undocumented, and her 11-year-old sister, a U.S. citizen who has Down Syndrome.”

NEW YORK JAIL MAXED OUT WITH ICE DETAINEES. The [Albany \(NY\) Times Union](#) (7/6, Mikati, 399K) reported the Albany County, New York jail “is now maxed out with 330 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainees, Sheriff Craig Apple said Friday.” He also “said the county receives \$119 per day for each detainee and they are being held in air-conditioned areas of the jail that are separated from the general population.”

USCIS NOT PROVIDING ICE WITH DACA APPLICANTS’ PERSONAL INFORMATION. [Bloomberg BNA](#) (7/6, Francis) reports, “U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is continuing to follow its policy of not providing Immigration and Customs Enforcement with the personal information of immigrants who apply for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.” A policy memorandum released by the agency July 5 says it will continue to follow 2012 guidance on the issue.

LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENTS WITH OLD CRIMINAL CASES INCREASINGLY TARGETED FOR DEPORTATION. The [Miami Herald](#) (7/6, Ovalle, 1.07M) reports, “Under President Donald Trump’s hardline stance on immigration, legal permanent residents with old criminal cases...are increasingly being targeted for deportation, a crackdown that critics say

tears at the fabric of immigrant-rich regions such as South Florida.” Fanny Lorenzo, who cooperated with prosecutors and served five years of probation after being arrested in 1997 “as part of her husband’s secret indoor marijuana growing ring,” had her green card revoked, was held in a detention center for months, then deported.

IMMIGRANTS SEEKING SANCTUARY IN HOUSES OF WORSHIP. [NPR](#) (7/7, Orme, 3.55M) reported immigrants are seeking sanctuary in houses of worship “amid an aggressive push by the Trump administration to crackdown on undocumented immigration.” NPR focused on Sandra Lopez, who sought sanctuary in Two Rivers Unitarian Universalist congregation in Carbondale, Colorado, and for eight months hasn’t left Rev. Shawna Foster’s residence in the congregation’s parsonage.

CHAOS IN WAKE OF ICE RAIDS. The [AP](#) (7/8, Merchant) reports, “Many miles away from the U.S.-Mexico border, authorities are separating families in raids that target immigrants at home and at work, conducted in the name of public safety.” The AP added, “Over two days in five towns across northern Kentucky, agents staked out homes before sunup, stopped men heading for jobs, went to warehouses.” In their wake, “[f]amilies barely getting by lost their only breadwinner. Left-behind wives didn’t know how to hire a lawyer or how they would afford bonds. Volunteers passed out cash so that bills got paid. Children needed meals, clothes and rides to school.”

Criminal Investigations:

WOMAN FALSELY ENROLLED FOREIGN ATHLETES IN SCHOOL TO AVOID ICE. The [AP](#) (7/6) reported, “Evelyn Mack faces up to 10 years in prison after pleading guilty Monday to a felony charge of concealing, harboring or shielding unlawful aliens” She falsely enrolled “foreign teens sought by basketball recruiters and coaches in her small private school.” The [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (7/6, Helms, 524K) reported, “Mack took about \$1,000 per student from athletic recruiters to falsely represent about 75 foreign teens as students in Evelyn Mack Academy, which was authorized to enroll high school students under F1 visas.”

SWIM COACH ACCUSED OF SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH STUDENT. The [Northwest Indiana Post-Tribune](#) (7/6, Hirsch, 1.5M) reported Carmel High School swim coach John C. Goelz “faces federal charges for an alleged sexual relationship with” a girl he coached at the Carmel Swim Club and on the Carmel High School swim team. ICE and Homeland Security are among the law enforcement agencies that investigated the case.

FORMER GEORGIA ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL ACCUSED OF SEXUAL ASSAULT. The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (7/6, Habersham, 1.09M) reported former Georgia high school assistant principal Ryan Rickard is accused of sexually abusing students. He was arrested and “charged with multiple counts of sexual assault by persons with supervisory or disciplinary authority, sexual battery and one count of rape.” The Department of Homeland Security was among the agencies that investigated the case.

PARENTS ARRESTED AFTER HEROIN FOUND IN TWO-YEAR-OLD’S REACH. The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (7/6, Brasch, 1.09M) reported Juan DeJesus and Reyna Romero “were arrested after police raided an Austell home and allegedly found eight kilograms of heroin within reach of their 2-year-old daughter.” The Department of Homeland Security was among the law enforcement agencies investigating the case.

ATTORNEY/ACTIVIST ARRESTED FOR HUMAN SMUGGLING. The [AP](#) (7/7) reported attorney and activist Armando Treviño was arrested and “charged with human smuggling after being accused of picking up two immigrants in the U.S. illegally on the side of a South Texas road.” According to a federal complaint from “an off-duty Border Patrol agent” who saw the incident, “the complaint says the immigrants told agents that smugglers had abandoned them after crossing the Rio Grande, and that they had been trying to catch a ride.” The [San Antonio Express-News](#) (7/6, Contreras, 1.59M) reported, “Treviño will be back in court Thursday for a hearing to determine whether Border Patrol had probable cause to arrest him.”

ALMOST \$10,000 SEIZED IN GAME ROOM RAID. [KFDM-TV](#) Beaumont, TX (7/6) reports, “Officers assigned to the Beaumont Special Services Division and Special Assignments Unit, with the assistance of a Homeland Security Investigator” and others, searched the Moon Game Room in Beaumont. “Approximately \$9,400.00 in cash was seized from the business along with electronics from approximately 40 gaming machines.”

Secret Service:

TWO INJURED AFTER SECRET SERVICE OFFICER PURSUES WRONG-WAY DRIVER. The [AP](#) (7/8) reports that two people were injured “and a third is at large after a police chase initiated when a Secret Service officer saw a driver going the wrong way in downtown Washington.” The Secret Service “said one of its officers spotted a car traveling the wrong

way on I St. NW in Washington about 4:30 a.m. Sunday. The officer tried to stop the car, but it drove off and crossed into Arlington, Virginia, traveling the wrong way on I-66." [The Hill](#) (7/8, Greenwood, 2.71M) reports the driver "collided with another vehicle traveling eastbound, before fleeing the scene on foot. Law enforcement has not apprehended the driver."

The [Washington Post](#) (7/8, Wang, 15.68M) reports that a "Secret Service spokesman said the agency was simply providing mutual aid to local police agencies. The Arlington County Police Department is leading the investigation." The [Washington Times](#) (7/8, Leblanc, 460K) runs a similar story.

PREVIOUS WHITE HOUSE INTRUDER ARRESTED AGAIN NEAR WHITE HOUSE. [CNN](#) (7/7, Gray, 82.6M) reports that Jonathan Tran, the "White House intruder who was arrested last year after wandering the grounds for more than 15 minutes hoping to speak to President Trump was arrested again Friday night, blocks away from the White House." Tran "was sentenced in September 2017 to two years probation and ordered to stay away from the White House after pleading guilty to one misdemeanor count of knowingly entering and remaining on restricted grounds."

COUNTERFEIT \$100 BILLS FOUND IN CALIFORNIA. The [Catalina \(CA\) Islander](#) (7/6, Kelly) reports that for "at least the last couple of weeks, counterfeit \$100 bills have been spotted in Avalon." Capt. John Hocking, commander of the Avalon Sheriff's station, "warned Islander readers that there had been an increase in the passing of \$100 bills" and has turned the case over to the Secret Service.

Emergency Response:

KLAMATHON FIRE ONE OF MORE THAN 60 WILDFIRES BURNING IN WESTERN US. The [CBS Weekend News](#) (7/8, story 6, 2:00, Quijano, 5.32M) reported, "More than 2,300" emergency response workers have been trying to contain a "fast-moving" wildfire that is burning near the California-Oregon border. The Klamathon Fire, which has been cited as the cause of at least one fatality, was one of "more than 60 wildfires burning" in America's western region on Sunday night.

Klamathon Fire Management Assistance Grant Approved. In related coverage, the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (7/6, Browning, Hunt, 470K) reported that a California Office of Emergency Services tweet said the Klamathon Fire prompted FEMA officials to approve a Fire Management Assistance Grant.

REAL ESTATE AGENTS IN WASHINGTON STATE SEEKING NFIP CHANGES. The [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (7/7, Brynolson, 89K) reported that local real estate agents say changing a federal program could help take pressure off of the housing market. The Clark County Association of Realtors (CCAR) is among the organizations "rallying to adjust the National Flood Insurance Program because they say its methods are outdated, keeping premiums too high and slowing house sales, among other things." David Gasser, the CCAR's president, said, "We hope that Congress will pursue" a long-term NFIP "solution that adds stability and dependability to such an important aspect" of home ownership.

Newspaper: Does Congress Need An NFIP Expiration Reminder? The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (7/8, 521K) editorializes that while it appreciates FEMA's recent effort to notify Louisiana residents of the NFIP's upcoming expiration date, those who may truly need such a reminder serve in Congress. The Times-Picayune argues that because Rep. Jeb Hensarling and some other House members have been obstructing sensible NFIP renewal legislation, owners of homes and businesses located near the US coastline must worry "about whether Congress will keep the program going."

TSA BENEFITS EXTENSION NOT AN END TO HOUSING PROBLEM FOR MARIA-DISPLACED PUERTO RICANS. [Yahoo! News](#) (7/7, Tubman, 12.44M) reported that while a federal judge recently ordered FEMA to continue providing Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) benefits to Hurricane Maria-displaced Puerto Ricans, the extension provides only a temporary "respite from instability" for those who have been relying on such aid, including some in New York City. New York Disaster Interfaith Services Executive Director Peter Gudaitis, whose organization has been helping Maria-displaced Puerto Ricans since last fall, said, "The biggest challenge facing" Maria evacuees who wound up in New York City after the storm made landfall in Puerto Rico is that "they can't get housing without a job, and...secure housing" is key to getting a job.

Coast Guard:

COCAINE RECOVERED AFTER BALE SPOTTED FLOATING OFF FLORIDA COAST. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (7/8, Simoneaux, 521K) reports a Coast Guard news release said approximately 77 pounds of cocaine were recovered from a bale that was spotted floating in Gulf of Mexico waters south off Pensacola this past weekend. The [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#) (7/8, 81K) reports, "The Coast Guard, Customs and Border Protection and local agencies assisted in the recovery of the drugs after a boater spotted a bale of cocaine floating in the water."

MAN ARRESTED AFTER SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE FOUND OUTSIDE MILWAUKEE COAST GUARD BUILDING. The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (7/6, Elbenni, 596K) reports that a “33-year-old man has been arrested in connection with a suspicious package found Friday morning outside Milwaukee’s Coast Guard building on South Lincoln Memorial Drive, the Police Department said.” The package was “detonated” with a water cannon after people were evacuated from the building.

Cyber News:

CHINA’S HUAWEI DOWNPLAYS POSSIBILITY OF US SANCTIONS. [Reuters](#) (7/7, Melander) reports the Chinese telecommunication network equipment manufacturer Huawei “does not see itself becoming the target of U.S. sanctions and will keep buying U.S. chips this year, one of its three rotating chairmen,” Ken Hu, told the French newspaper Le Journal du Dimanche. Hu told the newspaper that it is “hard to imagine” that Huawei would be targeted, as the company’s “policy is to closely implement all laws and regulations introduced by Europe, the United Nations and the United States.” Last month, several US lawmakers claimed Huawei’s “research funding to American universities posed a ‘significant threat’ to national security, the latest difficulty Huawei has faced operating in the United States.” Reuters notes another major Chinese telecom company, ZTE Corp, “was hit last month by a \$1.4 billion settlement deal after the U.S. government said the firm broke an agreement to discipline executives who conspired to evade U.S. sanctions on Iran and North Korea.”

SENATE PANEL SCHEDULES HEARING ON COMPUTER CHIP VULNERABILITIES. [The Hill](#) (7/6, Chalfant, 2.71M) reports that the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee announced Friday that it “has scheduled a hearing later this month to examine two critical vulnerabilities affecting computer processing chips unveiled earlier this year.” Lawmakers have also “called on an official at the National Institute of Standards and Technology – a nonregulatory laboratory at the Commerce Department – to testify, as well as academic security experts.” The committee said during the hearing “it would assess the ‘lessons learned’ from the Spectre and Meltdown chip vulnerabilities,” which could “provide an avenue for hackers to steal sensitive data from most modern computing devices.” The flaws “were revealed in January by security researchers who had spent months investigating them.” After the revelation, “Commerce Committee leaders Sens. John Thune (R-S.D.) and Bill Nelson (D-Fla.) wrote to executives at Amazon, Apple, Intel and other tech companies inquiring about their efforts to patch the vulnerabilities and mitigate the threat.”

CHINESE HACKERS ALLEGEDLY BREACH AUSTRALIA’S TOP-RANKED UNIVERSITY. [Reuters](#) (7/6) reported networks at Australian National University in Canberra, Australia’s top-ranked university, were breached “months ago” by attackers whom officials said are believed to be Chinese hackers, according to Channel 9 television and Fairfax Media. The university is “home to several defense-focused research units.” ANU said in a statement that it believed no staff, student, or research information was stolen as a result of the latest “threat,” which it had been working to contain “for several months.” The government was “working closely” with the university on the issue, a spokeswoman said in an email. Reuters notes the news “comes as tension flares over new Australian laws that seek to curb foreign interference, measures Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has said were adopted to allay concerns over Chinese influence in politics and universities.”

The [Sydney \(AUS\) Morning Herald](#) (7/6, McKenzie, Wroe, 18K) reported Alex Joske, a China researcher for the Australian Strategic Policy Institute’s International Cyber Policy Centre, said, “ANU has involvement in important Australian government projects. This hack might have been aiming to steal information for commercial gain or for strategic or technological gain for the Chinese military.” The attack “raises questions” about an agreement China and Australia signed in April last year, in which “the two countries promised not to hack one another for the purposes of stealing intellectual property, trade secrets or confidential information.”

WASHINGTON STATE SAFEGUARDING ELECTION SYSTEMS AGAINST POSSIBLE HACKING. The [Seattle Times](#) (7/8, O’Sullivan, 1.15M) reports Washington state officials are taking efforts to safeguard its election systems ahead of the 2018 midterms. About a year after the 2016 election, federal officials announced that Russian hackers had targeted the election systems of at least 21 states, including Washington. In that instance, “hackers scanned voter-registration systems looking for weak spots,” but “no breach was made.” Even though the state is “widely considered to have one of the more secure election systems,” Secretary of State Kim Wyman “has teamed up with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and is pushing for more resources for her office and the counties, which administer elections, to beef up their information-technology capabilities and training.” Wyman’s office is also “expected to soon sign an agreement to allow Washington Air National Guard cybersecurity experts to help with anti-hacking efforts.”

PUTIN CALLS FOR INTERNATIONAL CYBERSECURITY COOPERATION. The [AP](#) (7/6) reports Russian President Vladimir Putin, addressing a cybersecurity conference in Moscow on Friday, “called for closer international cooperation in fending off cyberattacks.” He discussed the importance of developing common cybersecurity standards that take into account interests of all nations. Putin said, “Cyberthreats have reached such a scale that they could only be neutralized by

combined efforts of the entire international community.” Without specifying, he added, “We have repeatedly seen that some nations’ egoism, their attempts to act squarely to their own advantages, hurt the global information stability.”

CYBERSECURITY EXPERT RECOMMENDS WRAPPING CAR FOBS IN FOIL. The [Detroit Free Press](#) (7/6, Howard, 1.21M) reports Holly Hubert, a former cybersecurity expert with the FBI who is now CEO of GlobalSecurityIQ, recommends wrapping car fobs in aluminum foil to protect them against cyber threats. Thieves can purchase devices that “amplify the fob signal sitting unprotected in a purse, a pocket, on a counter at home or even just copy the code to access the vehicle.” According to the Free Press, “Cybersecurity experts say privately that anyone who knows anything about the ease of auto and personal data hacking practices safe fob storage.” Hubert suggests using foil or purchasing a Faraday bag to shield the fob signal from potential theft.

CYBERSECURITY UPGRADES RECOMMENDED FOR ST. JUDE MEDICAL-MADE IMPLANTABLE HEART DEFIBRILLATORS. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (7/7, Carlson, 1.16M) reports, “Hundreds of thousands of implantable heart defibrillators made by Minnesota’s St. Jude Medical are getting cybersecurity software updates, while older versions of the devices may have their wireless communication systems disabled because they can’t accept the update.” Several recall notices said “roughly 740,000 implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICDs) and cardiac resynchronization therapy defibrillators (CRT-Ds) made by St. Jude Medical are eligible to receive new firmware that provides ‘an additional layer of protection against unauthorized device access.’” Abbott Laboratories, which acquired St. Jude Medical earlier this year, “sent U.S. hospitals and doctors notices about the St. Jude defibrillator firmware updates in April.”

UK’S NHS SIGNS CYBERSECURITY DEAL WITH IBM. [ComputerWorld \(UK\)](#) (7/5, Magee, 221K) reported the National Health Service Digital’s cybersecurity wing, CSOC, “announced a partnership with IBM as part of a £30 million deal to bolster threat intelligence, a year after the WannaCry ransomware outbreak hobbled some systems within the NHS.” CSOC head of operations Chris Flynn said that bringing IBM “on board is more about continuously improving the NHS’s data security capabilities than directly avoiding that sort of incident again.” According to ComputerWorld, the “three-year partnership will see IBM bring its technical expertise in to CSOC to improve threat monitoring, detection and response capabilities, as well as providing access to IBM’s X-Force threat intelligence unit.”

CONGRESSIONAL TECHNOLOGY POLICY FELLOWSHIP CONTINUES GROWTH. [Federal Computer Week](#) (7/6, Mazmanian, 263K) reported on TechCongress, a fellowship program designed to get more tech-oriented people in Congress. The program ran “on fumes for about 10 months,” but now has seven fellows, with ambitions to grow to 10 to 14 fellows for 2019. Each fellow receives a \$80,000 stipend and some benefits. They are “matched with a member or committee office,” where they are “given the opportunity to work for members who share their political outlook and interests.”

DC-AREA CYBERSECURITY COMPANIES ATTRACTING SILICON VALLEY INVESTORS. The [Washington Post](#) (7/8, Gregg, 15.68M) reports DC-area cybersecurity firms “struck 47 deals with venture investors in 2017 compared with just 15 in 2011.” The extra capital, “combined with new federal cybersecurity spending from defense and intelligence agencies, has spawned hundreds of new companies in the D.C. area.”

FITNESS APP EXPOSES WHEREABOUTS OF MI6, GCHQ EMPLOYEES. [The Telegraph \(UK\)](#) (7/8, Murphy, 976K) reports the Finnish fitness tracker Polar has been “broadcasting the whereabouts of Britain’s secret service agents including MI6, MI5 and GCHQ workers’, the second incident of this kind to spark security concerns.” The company said it is “tweaking” its app “after researchers warned that it was possible to identify personnel at sensitive government locations and facilities, dating as far back as 2014.”

[ZDNet](#) (7/8, 207K) reports that earlier this year, “Strava changed its privacy settings after word quickly spread that the fitness trackers used by military personnel were exposing the classified routes between bases on the battlefield, making it easy to launch attacks.”

HACKERS MAY SPUR INSIDER TRADING IN SPORTS WAGERING. The [New York Times](#) (7/6, Newman, 19.33M) reported the biggest winner of the Supreme Court allowing legalized sports wagering in the US “might be the hackers,” and “it won’t take them long to seize upon the opportunity.” The amount spent on illegal sports betting in the US is estimated to be \$150 billion to \$400 billion yearly, and with “so much money on the line, everyone will be looking for an edge.” As a result, the Times expects cybercrime “will no doubt meet insider trading in sports.” Passing cybersecurity measures now would “protect confidential sports information,” which will help preserve “the integrity of the games themselves.”

METRO REMAINS VULNERABLE TO CYBER ATTACKS, CLASSIFIED IG REPORT FINDS. The [Washington Post](#) (7/7, Powers, 15.68M) reports a classified report by Metro Inspector General Geoffrey Cherrington “concluded that the agency remains vulnerable to hacks and attacks that could imperil safety and day-to-day operations.” The Metro board

heard of the report at its meeting last month, learning about “Metro’s ‘incident response’ capabilities, and whether tech experts within the agency have the proper procedures and know-how to quickly detect, fend off and shut down a potential hack.”

NSO GROUP PROGRAMMER CHARGED WITH STEALING SPYWARE CODE. [Sophos Naked Security Blog](#) (7/6, Vaas, 6K) reported an unnamed ex-programmer for Israel’s NSO Group last week was indicted “for allegedly stealing source code, disabling company security so they could load it onto a storage drive, and trying to sell it on the Dark Web” for \$50 million. The indictment alleges the spyware’s capabilities are estimated to be worth “hundreds of millions of [US] dollars.” The Israeli government is “charging the ex-employee with attempting to ‘maliciously cause damage to property used by armed forces,’ and of actively trying to harm the security of the country.”

FEDERAL AGENCIES ADDRESSING HOW TO SHARE INFORMATION ON INFRASTRUCTURE RISKS. [MeriTalk](#) (7/6) reported on how various federal government agencies are “grappling with how to best curb critical infrastructure risk despite uncertainty regarding the best path forward.” Joyce Corell, assistant director for the supply chain directorate at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, said at a recent Information Security and Privacy Advisory Board meeting, “We’re beginning to develop a better understanding of how we provide threat information sharing across critical infrastructure.” Daryl Haegley, who works for the DoD’s Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations and Environment, said at MeriTalk’s Tenable GovEdge 2018 Conference on May 3, “The Secretary of Defense ordered that the CIO come up with scorecards that reported quarterly on IT issues,” which provided much-needed visibility on risk-prone IT-projects and systems. However, Haegley “said that more than 20 different cards for IT metrics existed before the idea of industrial control system security was addressed.”

Terrorism Investigations:

POLICE ARREST DEMOCRAT FOR MAKING “TERRORISTIC THREATS” TOWARD TRUMP SUPPORTERS AT REP. ZELDIN’S OFFICE. [Breitbart](#) (7/7, Rodriguez, 1.28M) reports that Suffolk County police arrested Martin Astrof, 75, of Long Island, New York, on Friday “for threatening to kill supporters of President Trump and Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-NY) at the Republican congressman’s campaign headquarters, police said.” Breitbart adds “Astrof, who is a registered Democrat according to Suffolk County voter registration records, fled the scene in his vehicle before authorities apprehended him at his home.” The [Daily Caller](#) (7/6, Athey, 420K) says Astrof “was arrested and charged with Making a Terroristic Threat and Reckless Endangerment 2nd Degree.”

Meanwhile, [The Hill](#) (7/7, Bowden, 2.71M) “Briefing Room” blog reports Donald Trump Jr. reached out to the “pro-Trump volunteer” threatened at Zeldin’s office, according to a tweet on Saturday from the lawmaker. Zeldin [said](#), “TY @DonaldJTrumpJr for reaching out to make sure Donato was okay re yesterday’s incident. We settle our political scores at the ballot box in the USA!”

SUSPECTED ISIS SYMPATHIZER SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES. The [Washington Post](#) (7/5, Weiner, 15.68M) reported that on Friday, US District Judge Leonie M. Brinkema sentenced 22-year-old Sean Duncan “to 20 years in prison and a lifetime of supervision, the maximum allowed under his plea agreement to charges of obstruction of justice and receipt of child pornography.” When the FBI arrived at Duncan’s door in December, Duncan “ran out the back carrying a thumb drive full of child pornography,” according to Duncan’s account of the day. Yet, the FBI arrived at Duncan’s home that day “because of his interest in radical Islam and the Islamic State, not child pornography.” In what the Post calls “a sign of how strange his criminal case has been, prosecutors say he might be lying in an effort to conceal ties to terrorism or information on the death of his son.”

The [AP](#) (7/6) reported that Duncan was “investigated by the FBI after his family reported that he had converted to Islam and may have been radicalized.” The [Alexandria \(VA\) News](#) (7/7) and the [Loudoun \(VA\) Times-Mirror](#) (7/6, 94K) also provided coverage.

OHIO MAN SENTENCED TO MORE THAN SIX YEARS FOR ATTEMPTED ISIS SUPPORT. The [Columbus \(OH\) Dispatch](#) (7/6, Stankiewicz, 399K) reported Aaron Travis Daniels, 21, of Columbus, who “tried to provide material support to the Islamic State group was sentenced Friday to more than six years in prison.” He “had met with an Islamic State recruiter in December 2015 and had sent money to the terrorist group to ‘show his worth,’ the Justice Department said.” Daniels’ sentencing “comes less than a week after the arrest of an Ohio man the FBI said had planned a Fourth of July attack in Cleveland while thinking he was working with the terrorist group al-Qaida.”

EAST BOSTON EXPLOSION FOUND NOT TO BE CONNECTED TO TERRORISM. [WBTS-TV](#) Boston (7/8, 113K) reports, “An explosion at a home in East Boston overnight Sunday that severely injured one resident and yielded the discovery of an assault weapon is not connected to terrorism, Boston Police Commissioner William B. Evans said.” Commissioner Evans “identified the injured resident as a 28-year-old man but would not give out his identity due to

pending charges.” Commissioner Evans “said [the resident] is probably facing charges of illegal possession of weapons, but that Boston police will sit down with ATF and the FBI to see what exact charges the man will face.” The [Boston Herald](#) (7/8, 363K), the [Boston Globe](#) (7/8, Campbell, 945K), and the [AP](#) (7/9) also report.

MINNESOTA MAN AT CENTER OF FBI TERROR INVESTIGATION WAGES BATTLE FOR GUN PERMIT. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (7/7, Montemayor, 1.16M) reports, “For at least three years, the FBI has kept tabs on a Fridley man suspected of helping produce ISIS propaganda while longing to join militants abroad. ... Now, the 37-year-old father of four is enmeshed in a new court challenge of his own making: He wants to carry a gun, but his county’s sheriff won’t let him. The highly unusual case...seeks to test the limits of how much discretion officials have in denying permits to carry firearms to residents without criminal convictions.” The Star Tribune “is not naming the man...because he has not been charged with a crime.”

In a separate article, The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (7/7, Montemayor, 1.16M) reports that “in a recent and unusual twist, [the man’s] attorney has demanded that the government return a trove of property taken” during a September FBI raid last year, “including cellphones, computers and an iPad – and asked a judge to order the FBI to disclose the evidence and sources it cited to get a search warrant in the first place.” The motion “could set up a rare legal challenge to the FBI’s series of ongoing terrorism investigations across Minnesota.”

SOUTH CAROLINA MAN SET TO CHANGE PLEA ON TERRORISM CHARGES. [Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (7/6, Bland, 387K) reported that Zakaryaia Abdin, 19, “who authorities say tried to join a Middle Eastern terrorist organization will have a change of plea hearing, multiple news organizations are reporting.” He “originally pleaded not guilty to charges of attempting to provide material support” to ISIS. Abdin “allegedly communicated with a person he believed to be a member of ISIS,” but who was an FBI agent.

FBI PSYCHIATRIST TESTIFIES IN HEARING FOR TEEN ACCUSED IN UTAH SCHOOL BOMB CASE. The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (7/6, Ricks) reported that Gregory Saathoff, “chief psychiatric consultant for the FBI’s Behavioral Analysis Units and Crisis Negotiation Unit,” testified in a hearing Friday “for the teen who allegedly brought a bomb to Pine View High School earlier this year.” The 16-year-old teen “from Hurricane in this case was charged with felonies for attempted murder and possessing a weapon of mass destruction for bringing an explosive in a backpack to Pine View High School on March 5.”

EXPERTS WARN AGAINST DE-PRIORITIZING CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISLAMIC TERRORISM. Under the headline, “ISIS May Be Waning, But Global Threats Of Terrorism Continue To Spread,” the [New York Times](#) (7/6, Schmitt, 19.33M) says the “enduring threat from Islamic extremism...will last long after...ISIS is defeated.” According to the Times, intelligence officials warn that “from...lone extremists...to fighters aligned with the [ISIS] or Al Qaeda...terrorist threats are as complex and diverse as ever.” The Times adds that ISIS, “in particular, is adapting to setbacks and increasingly using the tools of globalization – including Bitcoin and encrypted communications – to take their fight underground.” The Times notes that the Pentagon has “elevate[d] Russia and China above terrorism in the hierarchy of national threats” although the Times says “many counterterrorism specialists voiced concern that refocusing resources...could go too far and give violent extremists time and space to regroup and rebound – much as [ISIS] did in 2013, emerging from the ashes of Al Qaeda in Iraq.”

LATIMES: “TRUMP’S ANTI-MUSLIM RHETORIC” HAS “TAINTED” US COUNTERTERRORISM EFFORTS. In an editorial, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/7, 4.03M) asserts that while “it’s hard to imagine the city of Los Angeles turning down nearly half a million dollars for worthwhile social service programs such as mental health counseling, leadership training and refugee assistance,” the LA City Council is still debating “whether to accept a \$425,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to fund such services, amid concerns that the efforts will stigmatize and target Muslims.” The Times concedes the Countering Violent Extremism grant normally “probably wouldn’t be controversial,” but President Trump’s “anti-Muslim rhetoric has tainted even well-intentioned efforts to address extremist violence.” However, the Times concludes that “if Los Angeles can ensure the grant-funded programs broadly address the conditions that fuel terrorism and do it in a way that respects communities and protects civil rights – as [Mayor Eric Garcetti’s office] says it’s doing – then there’s no reason to turn down the money.”

CHENEY SIGNS “WATERBOARD KIT” IN BARON COHEN VIDEO. The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/8, Chaitin, 340K) reports, “Comedian Sacha Baron Cohen appears to get former Vice President Dick Cheney to sign a ‘waterboard kit’ in a teaser video for his upcoming project.” Cohen [tweeted](#) a video in which he asks, “Dick Cheney, is it possible for you to sign my waterboard kit?” Cheney “then appears, sitting on an chair. He says, ‘sure’ and signs an empty gallon-sized container for water.” Cheney then says, “That’s a first. First time I’ve ever signed a waterboard.” The Examiner notes that it is “unclear whether the footage has been doctored.”

COALITION PUTS ADVANCE ON KEY YEMENI PORT ON HOLD. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/8, Fitch, Subscription

Publication, 6.13M) reports that while the UAE has portrayed its battle for the Yemen port city of Hodeidah as pivotal to forcing Houthi rebels to negotiate an end to the three-year war, it has suspended its advance on the city after encountering heavy fighting. UAE officials says a slower advance on Hodeidah gives its 400,000 inhabitants the best chance of survival, allowing the port to remain open to aid shipments.

TURKEY FIRES OVER 18,000 CIVIL SERVANTS FOR ALLEGED TERROR LINKS. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/8, Gauthier-Villars, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reports Turkish authorities on Sunday fired more than 18,000 state employees for alleged ties to terror groups as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is about begin a new term with vastly expanded executive powers. An emergency decree listed the individuals, saying they had been “removed from public duty” over their alleged links to organizations that “act against national security.”

National Security News:

NEW YORK CITY MAYOR FLEW IN COUNTER-TERROR PLANE. The [New York Daily News](#) (7/6, Jorgensen, Rayman, Sanderson, 3.71M) reported a Daily News analysis found that New York Mayor Bill de Blasio “traveled to the Bronx on Thursday as a street was renamed for NYPD hero officer Miosotis Familia,” using “the NYPD’s Cessna 208 Caravan, which is outfitted with sophisticated radiation detection equipment.” This flight came at a cost which the Daily News calculated to be at least \$3,850. “De Blasio’s round trip Thursday between Montreal and the Bronx was his first use of the plane, mayoral spokesman Eric Phillips said.” Three-fourths of the \$3 million price of the plane was paid with federal funds from the Department of Homeland Security. The [National Review](#) (7/6, Crowe, 740K) also covered this story.

BILL WOULD CREATE COUNTERING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION OFFICE. The [Brooklyn \(NY\) Reporter](#) (7/6, Katinas) reported Rep. Dan Donovan “introduced legislation that he said would ensure that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has the tools it needs to parry continuing threats posed by terrorists looking to use weapons of mass destruction.” The “Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Act” would create the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction (CWMD) Office with the goal of improving” coordination among various anti-terror efforts at the federal level, Donovan said.”

SYRIA SAYS IT THWARTED ISRAELI ATTACK ON AIR BASE. [Reuters](#) (7/8) reports Syrian air defenses “struck an Israeli warplane and shot down Israeli missiles targeting the T4 air base in Homs province in response to an act of ‘aggression’ on Sunday night, Syrian state media said.” An Israeli military spokeswoman declined to comment on the report, but Reuters notes Israel’s air force “has struck scores of targets it describes as Iranian deployments or arms transfers” to Hezbollah.

THOUSANDS WHO FLED RECENT FIGHTING ALONG JORDANIAN BORDER RETURN HOME. The [AP](#) (7/8, Mroue, Akram) reports that “most Syrians displaced by recent fighting stranded at the border with Jordan...have returned to their homes, a UN official...said Sunday.” After Syrian government forces regained control of areas along the border for the first time in three years, many of the estimated 330,000 people displaced by the fighting returned home. Anders Pedersen, the top UN humanitarian coordinator in Jordan, told reporters Sunday that “just 150 to 200 Syrians remained near a key crossing point into Jordan,” adding that as “far as we understand they are almost exclusively men.”

US, AFGHAN FORCES CLEAR ISIS FROM EASTERN DISTRICT. [Reuters](#) (7/8, Mackenzie) reports US and Afghan Special Forces “are completing an operation to clear Islamic State fighters from a remote district in Nangarhar, the eastern province where they have their main stronghold in Afghanistan, officials said.” The operation in Deh Bala, on the border with Pakistan, “began at the end of April and was largely complete in early June but final mine clearance operations are still under way, said Lt. Col. Josh Thiel, from the US First Special Forces Group.”

US SOLDIER KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN IDENTIFIED. The US soldier killed Saturday “in an insider attack in Afghanistan” has been identified as Cpl. Joseph Maciel “of the Army 3rd Infantry Division’s 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, according to a statement from U.S. military headquarters in Kabul,” the [Washington Post](#) (7/8, Lamothe, 15.68M) reports. He was deployed in February “to provide training and advising to Afghan soldiers and police” as “part of the Trump administration’s strategy for the war, U.S. military officials said.” Two other American soldiers were wounded in Saturday’s ambush, which the Post says “will inject new stress on the U.S. military’s plans to place conventional military advisers from the brigade in closer proximity to Afghan troops than the Pentagon has in years.” Maciel’s “death marks the third U.S. combat death in Afghanistan this year” and “the first time a U.S. service member has been killed in an insider attack since June 2017.”

OBAMA TEAM SHUTTERED PLAN TARGETING TALIBAN’S DRUG TRADE. According to the [Daily Caller](#) (7/8, Pickrell, 420K), former President Obama’s Administration “reportedly had the chance to cripple the global heroin trade funding terrorism in war-torn Afghanistan, but it shelved the plan to advance a broader political agenda.” The shuttered plan, dubbed Operation Reciprocity, was drafted by Drug Enforcement Administration and Justice Department legal

advisers “to stop the spread of narcotics around the world, prevent Afghanistan’s emergence as a narco-state, and sever the critical revenue streams financing the deadly insurgency American troops are fighting and dying to end.” The “high-stakes strategy was strangled in its crib by the Obama administration’s deputy chief of mission in Kabul, Tina Kaidanow, to protect the administration’s strategic ambitions” in Afghanistan, “including but not limited to the proposed drawdown of America’s military presence in the region.”

[Politico](#) (7/8, Meyer, 3.51M) reports Kaidanow “confirmed that she felt blindsided by such a politically sensitive and ambitious effort and the traction it had received at Justice.” If Kaidanow “did issue such an order” to shutter it, “she said, it was because she – as the administration’s ‘eyes’ in Afghanistan – had concerns it would undermine the White House’s broader strategy in Afghanistan, including a drawdown that included the DEA as well as the military.” Nonetheless, the authors of the plan are “expressing anger over the decision” to shelve it “and hope that the Trump administration, which has followed a path similar to” Obama’s “in Afghanistan, will eventually adopt the plan as part of its evolving strategy.” According to Politico, however, while President Trump “has sharply criticized Obama’s approach in Afghanistan, his team is using a similar one, including a troop surge last year and possibly another, and, recently, a willingness to engage in peace talks with the Taliban.”

TRUMP SAYS IRANIAN HARASSMENT OF US SHIPS HAS ENDED. The [New York Post](#) (7/8, Moore, 4.46M) reports that on Sunday, President Trump “noted that harassment of United States warships by the Iranian navy in the Persian Gulf has stopped in the second year of his administration.” The President “[tweeted](#) US Navy statistics on the dangerous encounters – which included 22 events in 2015, 36 in 2016, 14 in 2017 and zero in 2018.” According to the Post, the “respite might be short-lived as Iran has threatened to block the strategic Strait of Hormuz, the passage between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, in an effort to disrupt international crude oil supplies.” The threat came after the Administration “last week warned countries to end imports of Iranian oil by Nov. 4 as part of its tougher campaign against the Islamic Republic after withdrawing from the 2015 nuclear deal.”

More Multinational Companies To Cease Iran Operations. The [Washington Times](#) (7/8, Boylan, 460K) reports the “Dutch airline KLM and cargo shipping leader CMA CGM have joined the growing list of major multinational companies ending their business with Iran because of reimposed U.S. sanctions.” CMA CGM “announced on Saturday it would stop its work in Iran for fear that new sanctions could disrupt its U.S. business,” and KLM, which also “cited pressure from the hardening” US position, “said all flights to Tehran will soon be suspended.” Patrick Pouyanne, the chief executive of the French oil giant Total, which has “also suspended multibillion-dollar projects” in Iran, addressed the matter Saturday, saying if the company “continued to work in Iran, Total would not be able to access the U.S. financial world.” The Times notes that Iranian President Hassan Rouhani visited Europe last week “in a bid to preserve the nuclear deal, which suspended Tehran’s nuclear activities in exchange for sanctions relief.”

ISRAEL PRESENTS US WITH “RED LINES” FOR SAUDI NUCLEAR DEAL. Barak Ravid of [Axios](#) (7/8, Ravid, 2.49M) said “Israel has presented the Trump administration with its ‘red lines’ for the nuclear deal the United States is currently negotiating with Saudi Arabia to build reactors in the kingdom.” Last March, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu “raised concerns about the deal during a meeting with President Trump and other senior U.S. officials,” who “told Netanyahu that, if the U.S. does not sell the Saudis nuclear reactors, other countries like Russia or France will.” A “senior Israeli official” told Ravid that when Netanyahu’s government realized the deal would proceed despite its objections, it “decided instead to attempt to reach an understanding with the Trump administration regarding the parameters of the deal.”

Israeli Lawmakers Visit Contested Jerusalem Holy Site. The [AP](#) (7/8) reports two Israeli lawmakers on Sunday visited “a flashpoint Jerusalem shrine after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reportedly lifted a ban on Israeli parliamentarians entering the site.” Agriculture Minister Uri Ariel and Likud party member Sharren Haskel visited the compound, known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary.

HUTCHINSON: TRUMP’S PRESSURE ON NATO TO BOOST DEFENSE SPENDING PAYING OFF. [Bloomberg News](#) (7/8, Nix, Capaccio, 4.46M) reports President Trump’s pressure campaign on NATO allies to boost spending for their own defense is paying off, NATO Ambassador Kay Bailey Hutchison said Sunday. Appearing on [Fox News Sunday](#), Hutchinson said, “NATO really is making progress, and they are doing it really at President Trump’s insistence. It’s very clear, and he’s been very direct about the Europeans needing to do more for their own security.” The [Washington Times](#) (7/8, Richardson, 460K) quotes Hutchison as saying, “Now, I think, for the first time, we are really seeing the Europeans actually start going in the right direction. Every ally is now increasing defense spending. We’ve had the largest increase in defense spending since the Cold War. And in the year and a half that President Trump has been in office, it has doubled since 2014.”

US Ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell said on [Fox News’ Sunday Morning Futures](#) (7/8, Bartiromo, 1.51M), “This is a very important issue for the readiness of NATO, for the readiness of Europe, it is a very pro-Europe position to ask

countries in Europe, specifically Germany, to increase their defense spending. ... This is going to create a stronger transatlantic alliance.”

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/8, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) that the alliance is currently facing a complex security environment, so it must invest more in its collective defense. He argues that all member nations understand this and are keeping their pledge to move toward spending 2% of their respective gross domestic products on defense within a decade. Stoltenberg credits President Trump for his leadership on this issue. He also urges the alliance to overcome its differences in order to maintain strength.

The [AP](#) (7/8, Colvin, Lemire) reports Trump departs Tuesday on a four-nation tour and “in the run-up to his trip...did little to ease European concerns by delivering fresh broadsides against NATO.” At a rally last week in Montana, the President said, “I’ll tell NATO: ‘You’ve got to start paying your bills,’ and “then laced into German Chancellor Angela Merkel,” saying, “And I said, you know, Angela, I can’t guarantee it, but we’re protecting you, and it means a lot more to you. ... I don’t know how much protection we get from protecting you.”

The [Washington Post](#) (7/8, Birnbaum, 15.68M) reports that “NATO leaders once feared President Trump wasn’t invoking the right words to convince Russia that the United States was still serious about defending Europe.” Ahead of this week’s summit, they’re now “worried about something bigger: a full crackup of the alliance, or at least such a weakening of Washington’s security commitments that NATO would emerge deeply damaged.” The Post notes that European Council President Donald Tusk “warned European leaders last month that judging by Trump’s language, allies could no longer assume that NATO would endure.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/8, Schlesinger, Pancevski, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) similarly reports on the tensions between the President and NATO leaders over his demands that nations increase defense spending, as well as the Administration’s moves to impose tariffs on Europe. [Politico](#) (7/8, Nelson, 3.51M) reports Hutchinson, however, insisted that trade tensions between the US and its allies “have thus far not bled over into military activities at NATO.” Said the Ambassador, “One thing I will say is that in all of the disagreements that we have seen at the G7 and with allies with whom we are now having trade talks and negotiations and tariffs, that has not come up in the NATO context.”

The [New York Times](#) (7/8, 19.33M) editorializes that as NATO allies gather in Brussels this week for their annual meeting, “many are wondering whether the American president is intent on wrecking it.” The Times argues that “Trump is burning up all the credit the United States has accrued with our allies across decades by attacking the basis of this alliance, if not the very idea of any alliance — thus, deliberately or not, doing the bidding of Mr. Putin in his quest to divide the West.” At this week’s summit, the Times says the “result that matters most is a firm and convincing commitment to a strong NATO,” and “Trump would do well to make that commitment, and honor the friends we have.”

On its editorial page, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/8, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) writes that Trump will be at a disadvantage during his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin next week if he does not first set the right tone with NATO leaders at the summit in Brussels.

WTimes Analysis: Trump’s Relationship With Mattis An “Intriguing Subplot” Of Summit. The [Washington Times](#) (7/8, Muñoz, 460K) reports that Trump’s “ability to get along with America’s top military allies is the dominant storyline of this week’s NATO summit in Brussels. But an intriguing subplot is emerging over Mr. Trump’s ability to get along with his own top military adviser.” The Times says that “despite repeated Pentagon denials of a rift,” the relationship between Trump and Defense Secretary Mattis “remains a source of intense speculation in Washington and in numerous NATO capitals.”

POMPEO SEES “DIFFICULT” ROAD AHEAD, BUT CONFIDENT ABOUT NORTH KOREA TALKS. [Reuters](#) (7/8, Brunnstrom) reports Secretary of State Pompeo on Sunday “brushed off North Korean charges that he used ‘gangster-like’ diplomacy in negotiations in Pyongyang,” saying he would continue to pursue denuclearization talks with North Korea. After meeting his Japanese and South Korean counterparts in Tokyo, Pompeo said “he was confident North Korean leader Kim Jong Un would stick to a commitment to abandon nuclear weapons.” Said Pompeo, “When we spoke to them about denuclearization, they did not push back. The road ahead will be difficult and challenging and we know that critics will try to minimize the work that we’ve achieved.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/8, Wadhams, 4.46M) similarly says Pompeo “brushed off a harshly worded North Korean statement that cast doubt on the outlook for denuclearization talks between the two countries, insisting that Kim Jong Un hasn’t backed off a commitment to give up his nuclear weapons.” An Administration official “said the US believed the North Korean statement was a negotiating tactic, and that Pompeo wasn’t discouraged.”

Speaking later Sunday during a visit to Hanoi, the [AP](#) (7/8, Lee) reports Pompeo “appealed for North Korea’s leadership

to follow Vietnam's path in overcoming past hostilities with the United States." Speaking to members of the US-Vietnamese business community, Pompeo said, "We know it is a real possibility because we see how Vietnam has traveled this remarkable path. ... It's yours if you'll you seize the moment. This miracle can be yours. It can be your miracle in North Korea as well."

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/8, story 5, 1:40, Llamas, 14.63M), Tara Palmeri said Pompeo is "drawing a line in the sand, telling the North Koreans if they think his demands for denuclearization are 'gangster-like,' he's got plenty of company." Pompeo: "If those requests were gangster-like, the world is a gangster." Palmeri: "Pompeo still insists that this weekend's talks had North Korea reaffirming its commitment to complete denuclearization. This, despite that staggering statement released after his departure, calling US talking points 'cancerous' and 'deeply regrettable.'"

A [Bloomberg News](#) (7/8, Tweed, 4.46M) analysis says Pompeo "went to Pyongyang to get Kim Jong Un to give up his nuclear weapons. He left with a harsh reminder that the North Korean leader expects something in return." The North Korean statement issued hours after talks ended Saturday, Bloomberg says, "shows that Kim is willing to test Trump's patience and not bargain away his arsenal without sufficient security guarantees." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/8, Donati, Jeong, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reports Joseph Yun, a former US special representative for North Korea policy at the State Department, said, "The pace of discussions and negotiations are being dictated by North Korea."

Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO) said on [NBC's Meet the Press](#) (7/8, Todd, 2.98M), "This is standard operating procedure for three generations now of dictators in North Korea and I hope we at the end come to success, but I think nobody should be surprised by foot-dragging." He continued, "Nobody should be surprised by saying one thing and then apparently that's not what maybe they meant to say when they said it" as "this has troubled now four US presidents."

Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) told [CBS' Face the Nation](#) (7/8, Brennan, 2.73M), "We haven't gotten the sort of detailed strategy or updated briefing from Secretary Pompeo that I think we need and deserve." He added, "My concern... is that the Singapore summit last month was really not much more than a reality TV handshake summit that didn't really accomplish much in terms of getting North Korea to commit to verifiable and irreversible denuclearization. ... I commend Secretary Pompeo for how hard he's trying to make something out of nothing but so far I don't see that we've accomplished much."

On [CBS' Face the Nation](#) (7/8, Brennan, 2.73M), Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA) said, "I do think talks are progressing, so I applaud the Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, for engaging in these discussions." She continued, "The ultimate goal is denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and if these talks will eventually lead to that, I am very, very supportive of those efforts. Of course, we're going to hear hard talk coming from North Korea" and "this is not the path that they want to take, but it is what the rest of the world wants to see."

Brit Hume said on [Fox News MediaBuzz](#) (7/8, 1.17M), "Pompeo indicated basically that this meeting went about as he expected. Progress was made. Significant issues were discussed. They broke it down into working groups to cover the multitude of issue that would have to be negotiated to bring this outcome about . He seems to think everything is fine. The North Korea officials put out this blustery statement of the kind that we are accustomed to hearing them through the years. So the question arises, whom do you believe?"

GIULIANI: TRUMP "HAS TO SIT DOWN WITH VLADIMIR PUTIN." The [New York Post](#) (7/8, Schultz, 4.46M) reports that "despite the federal probe into his campaign's ties to Russia," Rudy Giuliani said Sunday that he supports President Trump's upcoming face-to-face summit with Vladimir Putin. On NBC's "Meet the Press," Giuliani said, "He has to sit down with Vladimir Putin. Vladimir Putin happens to run one of the most powerful countries on Earth." He added, "I don't think he has a choice. I think it's a sign of how confident the president is that he did nothing wrong. He's not going to be stopped by this."

Hutchinson: Russia Poses Threat To NATO. Asked on the [CBS' Face the Nation](#) (7/8, Brennan, 2.73M) how much of a threat Russia was to the NATO alliance, US Ambassador Kay Bailey Hutchinson said, "We're seeing Russia with maligned activities on so many fronts right now, especially the hybrid area where they are, through social media, sowing discontent and even false information to try to divide our allies." She added, "They are also doing things like the terrible attack, the nerve agent attack in Great Britain; they're supporting a Syrian dictator who is using chemical weapons on his own people to kill even children and it's just on and on and on."

Diehl: Trump Exception To Consensus In Washington On Crimea. Diehl, in his [Washington Post](#) (7/8, Diehl, 15.68M) column, writes that "inside the US government there is virtual unanimity on the question of Crimea, the Ukrainian region invaded and abruptly annexed by Russia in 2014: It was an egregious act of aggression and, as the first forcible transnational seizure of territory in Europe since World War II, should never be accepted by the United States. There's just one exception to this consensus: President Trump." Trump, he notes, "has repeatedly said — most recently, to the

other leaders of the Group of Seven democracies — that Crimea ought to be part of Russia because a majority of its people are Russian-speaking.”

Other DHS News:

DURBIN LIKENS THAI CHILDREN IN CAVE TO CHILDREN DETAINED AT US BORDER. The [Daily Caller](#) (7/8, Brest, 420K) reports that in an appearance on [NBC's Meet the Press](#) (7/8, 2.98M) Sunday, Sen. Dick Durbin “compared the children who have been separated from their parents at the Southern border of the country to the 12 Thai kids who have been stuck in a cave.” Durbin said, “Hearts and prayers are with those boys in Thailand, trapped in the cave. ... I hope our hearts and prayers are also with thousands of children, toddlers and infants, removed from their parents by the Trump administration, under zero tolerance. ... They're trapped in a bureaucratic cave, too, so let's not forget them.”

NATIVE TRIBE RUNS ICE DETENTION CENTERS. The [Daily Beast](#) (7/6, Rawnsley, 1.69M) reported the Port Isabel Detention Center in Los Fresnos, Texas – which is “currently holding many of the parents who have been separated from their kids” – has guards provided by “a subsidiary of Ahtna, Inc., a portfolio of businesses operated by the Ahtna, a federally recognized Alaska Native people.” The Ahtna “also run immigrant detention centers in New York, Florida, and Arizona in addition to Port Isabel.” They are also part of the National Congress of American Indians, which “decried the Trump administration's ‘forced separation of immigrant children from their families,’” calling it a reminder of “a dark period for many Native American families.”

DOZENS AT GARY/CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PROTEST DEPORTATIONS. The [Northwest Indiana Post-Tribune](#) (7/5, Colias-Pete, 1.5M) reported, “More than 100 people gathered at the Gary/Chicago International Airport on Friday to protest its use as a staging ground for deportations.” In contrast to previous protests, there was no deportation flights were scheduled for that day. The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (7/6, Ballesteros, 815K) reported, “In a statement, Gary Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson said her hands are tied by the federal government when it comes to allowing ICE to use airport facilities for deportations.”

PROTESTERS SEEK INSPECTION OF ICE PROCESSING CENTER. The [AP](#) (7/6) reported, “Protesters camping near an Immigration and Customs Enforcement processing center in Wichita are demanding that the agency allow it to be inspected by a group of elected officials.” The AP added, “The Wichita Eagle reported Friday that ICE told them elected officials would need to formally request access through Homeland Security's Office of Legislative Affairs.”

REPORT: ICE CONTRACTOR KEPT KIDS IN UNLICENSED OFFICE BUILDING. [USA Today](#) (7/6, Philip, 11.4M) reported that a report from Reveal from the Center for Investigative Reporting found that MVM Inc., which was “contracted to provide transportation for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement,” housed children for over three weeks “in an unlicensed facility near downtown Phoenix” which the report describes as “a vacant Phoenix office building with dark windows, no kitchen and only a few toilets.” MVM Inc. said that Reveal “inaccurately reports that this building is a holding center for migrant families and children” when it is instead sometimes used “as a temporary waiting area.”

BORDER PATROL AGENT PULLED DOCTOR OVER FOR SPEEDING. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (7/6, Plevin, 140K) reported a Border Patrol agent pulled over Dr. Javier Hernández and said in a video the doctor recorded that “he was detaining the doctor for reckless driving and endangerment – allegations that could be beyond the scope of Border Patrol agents.” A spokesman for the El Centro Sector of the Border Patrol “said U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Office of Professional Responsibility is conducting an internal investigation and ‘will take appropriate actions after they review the video.’”

LAWSUIT INCLUDES MIGRANT DESCRIPTIONS OF THEIR EXPERIENCES IN US CUSTODY. [CNN](#) (7/7, Sanchez, Jones, Alsup, Allen, 82.6M) reports, “A lawsuit by a coalition of state attorneys general claiming that the Trump administration's separation of families at the border violated due process and equal protection clauses of the Fifth Amendment” include claims that “children are confined to windowless rooms in metal enclosures that some call kennels”; there are “prison-like conditions, with unsanitary bathrooms, lockdowns and solitary confinement”; and “immigration officers mock their accents.”

OCCUPY ICE SETS UP NEW PROTESTS CAMP OUTSIDE PHILADELPHIA CITY HALL. [Philly \(PA\)](#) (7/6, Reyes, Orso, 551K) reported, “Opponents of the Trump administration's immigration policies set up a new protest camp at City Hall,” as “‘Occupy ICE’ grew angrier at the mayor for allowing police to destroy their first camp.” Mayor Kenney “said the protesters are free to stay at City Hall as long as they want” but that neither tents nor generators would be permitted. “Kenney also defended Thursday's police raid on the encampment outside the ICE office.”

LOUISVILLE COULD SQUEEZE OUT OCCUPY ICE. The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (7/7, Costello, 419K) reported, “Louisville officials are demanding that the protesters posted outside the downtown Immigration and Customs

Enforcement building move their camp to create a 4-foot walkway on the sidewalk, which could potentially squeeze the camp off the property.” Occupy ICE Louisville “were pushed back by federal officials who barred them from the lawn earlier this week and set up steel barriers bordering their property on Friday morning.”

EMPLOYEE AT FACILITY FOR IMMIGRANT MINORS HAS HISTORY OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT ALLEGATIONS.

The [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (7/6, Thomas, 636K) reported that Jeff Montague, who has “a history of sexual misconduct allegations, is employed at the Topeka nonprofit that is housing nearly four dozen [im]migrant children, including some separated from their parents at the border.” Montague, who is “human resources manager for The Villages Inc., was arrested in Topeka in 2007 for solicitation of sodomy in Gage Park, records show.” Prior to that, “in 1989, the Boy Scouts of America severed ties with Montague after being told that he’d been suspended from his teaching position at Seaman High School in Topeka because of allegations of sexual advances toward a male foreign exchange student.”

Global Media:

WOMAN EXPOSED TO NERVE AGENT IN SOUTHERN ENGLAND DIES. The [Washington Post](#) (7/8, Booth, 15.68M) reports that a British woman, “who somehow came into contact” with a Soviet-era nerve agent, died Sunday evening. Prime Minister Theresa May said she was “appalled and shocked by the death,” and “announced that incident is now being investigated as a murder.” The [CBS Weekend News](#) (7/8, story 5, 0:25, Quijano, 5.32M) reported that Dawn Sturgess was hospitalized with her partner last week after being exposed to the nerve agent Novichok. Her partner, Charlie Rowley, remains in critical condition. [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/8, story 4, 0:25, Snow, 8.26M) reported that Novichok is “the same substance used to poison a former Russian spy and his daughter in March. ... Police suspect the two were exposed to a contaminated item left over from the attack on the Russians.” [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/8, story 9, 0:20, Llamas, 14.63M) had a similar report, adding that “the British government blam[es] Russia for that spy attack.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/8, Fidler, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reports that following Sturgess’ death, British police opened a murder investigation. The Journal adds that the incident is likely to increase tensions between Britain and Russia ahead of the summit between President Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Citing the two poison attacks in the UK, the [Washington Post](#) (7/8, 15.68M) editorializes that last month, “a proposal to strengthen procedures for attribution in chemical weapons attacks – in other words, figuring out who did it – was approved by the nations that signed the Chemical Weapons Convention prohibiting the use of chemical weapons. The initiative was pushed by Britain, backed by the United States and approved by 82 nations,” but opposed by 24, including Russia and Syria. The Post argues that “if translated into effective action, this initiative could provide more teeth to investigations, helping detectives finger the perpetrators.”

Meanwhile, [BBC News Online \(UK\)](#) (7/7, 1.57M) reports that the police operation “into the poisoning of a couple with a nerve agent in Salisbury is ‘expected to take months to complete’, officers have said.” The [Independent \(UK\)](#) (7/6, Matthews-King, 1.35M) reports that the “relative obscurity of the novichok nerve agent until its use in the poisoning of four people in Wiltshire may be making the search and cleanup of any remaining traces more difficult, scientists say.” Portable monitoring devices “which can detect various nerve agents are not set up to look for novichok substances because ‘they were not considered likely chemical weapons’ when the devices were designed.”

FRENCH COURT DEEMS HUMANITARIAN AID TO MIGRANTS LEGAL. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/6, Jacobs, Schechner, Subscription Publication, 6.13M) reported that in a ruling Friday, France’s constitutional court struck down some provisions allowing for the prosecution of people who “directly or indirectly” provide humanitarian aid to migrants who “enter, travel or stay illegally” in France, saying such prosecutions contradict the principle of “fraternity” in the French constitution. The Journal notes the ruling comes as Europe’s political agenda increasingly centers on the issue of migration, with nativist Italian, German, and Austrian parties pushing for stricter controls over asylum procedures and greater checks on migrant arrivals.

NYTimes A1 Examines Rise Of Anti-Migrant Sentiment In Once-Tolerant Italian Town. A front-page [New York Times](#) (7/7, A1, Horowitz, 19.33M) analysis profiles Macerata, an Italian town that once “had a reputation for tolerance and, in 2013, won national recognition for its integration efforts.” In February, Luca Traini “shot and wounded six African migrants – from Ghana, Mali and Nigeria – in this medieval city near the Adriatic Sea to avenge the dismemberment of a young Italian woman, allegedly by a Nigerian drug dealer.” Traini “was a terrifying omen” for Italy’s “leaders, liberals and anti-fascist groups,” and his “shooting rampage” came just weeks ahead of national elections and amid “a hate-laced campaign marred by anti-migrant language, rising intolerance and hints of a Fascist revival.” According to the Times, “Traini’s rage crystallized, in grotesque form, the growing backlash against migrants and the rise of right-wing politics” in Macerata, Italy, and across Europe.

NYTIMES PROFILES BAVARIAN PREMIER CREDITED WITH PUSHING MERKEL TO THE RIGHT ON IMMIGRATION

COMPARED TO TRUMP. The [New York Times](#) (7/6, Bennhold, 19.33M) profiles Bavarian premier Markus Söder. According to the Times, “Lately, attention has focused on Horst Seehofer, another Bavarian and the German interior minister whose threat to resign over a border issue created a political crisis this week.” However, the Times says it is Söder, “as much as anyone,” who is “the reason Chancellor Angela Merkel, who once staked her legacy on welcoming hundreds of thousands of migrants to Germany, finally capitulated and agreed to turn back migrants already registered elsewhere in Europe at the Bavarian border with Austria – something Mr. Söder has been demanding for months.” The Times adds, “To his critics Mr. Söder is Germany’s Trump, a fear mongering populist who is taking Bavaria’s conservative Christian Social Union, the longtime ally of Ms. Merkel’s centrist conservative party, to the far right and colluding with nativists in neighboring countries to overthrow Europe’s liberal order.”

NYTimes Analysis: EU Leaders’ Fight Over Borders Threatens Bloc Integration. A [New York Times](#) (7/6, Fisher, 19.33M) analysis says in an essay that became the European Union’s foundational text, Norwegian Foreign Minister Halvard Lange wrote, “The keen feeling of national identity must be considered a real barrier to European integration.” The Times says “instead of overcoming that barrier, European leaders pretended it didn’t exist,” and even more “damning, they entirely avoided mentioning what Europeans would need to give up: a degree of their deeply felt national identities and hard-won national sovereignty.” With Europeans now struggling “with the social and political strains set off by migration from poor and war-torn nations outside the bloc, some are clamoring to preserve what they feel they never consented to surrender.” Those Europeans’ “fight with European leaders is exploding over an issue that, perhaps more than any other, exposes the contradiction between the dream of the European Union and the reality of European nations: borders.”

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